

Expedited Procedure
Under 37 C.F.R. §1.116

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:) Attorney Docket No.: E-846

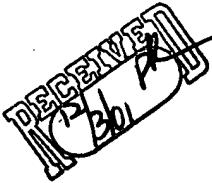
Ronald P. Sansone, et al.) Group Art Unit: 2161

Serial No.: 09/316,795) Examiner: H. Sough

Filed: May 21, 1999) Date: December 3, 2001

Title: **VIRTUAL POST OFFICE BOX**

Official



AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL REJECTION

Box AF
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 2327
Arlington, VA 22202

Sir:

In response to the Final Rejection dated October 23, 2001, please consider the following:

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this Application is requested.

Claims 1 and 6-21 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Boies et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,006,200) in view of Allum (U.S. Patent No. 5,420,403).

Boies discloses the following in column 2, lines 11-22:

"The method used in this invention is to employ a third party vendor to supply a unique identifier to the customer that maps to the customer's name and address in a database owned by the third party. The personal identifier is a multi-digit numeric or alphanumeric code assigned to a customer, as indicated at 10. This code is an accepted field by the vendor 12 that is used for shipping purposes. The